

DISPLACEMENT OF THE UTERUS.

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My justification for bringing before this Association a subject so hackneyed as that of Uterine Displacements is that it is one of every-day importance. There has been in the past much difference of opinion in connection with the subject, for whereas the family practitioner (speaking generally, of course) was inclined to attach too little clinical importance to displacements and attribute the symptoms to hysteria or what not, on the other hand the specialist had an altogether exaggerated idea of the importance of malposition *per se*.

Twenty-five or thirty years ago, if a woman's uterus were not in what the gynecologist thought a normal position, it was held responsible for all her trouble; and there is no doubt many patients were needlessly tinkered for uterine displacements when the real cause for their symptoms was something entirely outside the malposition. It is a fact that some of the so-called displacements may exist in healthy women without symptoms, and on the other hand similar conditions in other individuals are the direct cause of much suffering and invalidism. In fact, these cases must be approached clinically with an open mind and a clear understanding that displacements do not always cause symptoms—that some of them are normal or quasi-normal; while not losing sight of the fact that what is apparently normal in one woman may be pathological in another.

Having during a period of over twenty years had unusual opportunities of studying these conditions, both from the point of view of the family practitioner and the gynecologist in all classes of patients, from the fashionable society woman to the humblest